

Message Text

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46

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 EB-07 IO-10 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 ISO-00 /127 W

----- 057005

O R 161700Z DEC 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 941

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE UNN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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PASS STR FOR ACTION

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PASS AGRICULTURE, H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 16 MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE

REFERENCE: A. STATE 295271 B. MTN GENEVA 9138 C. MTN GENEVA 9199

1. SUMMARY. GROUP AGRICULTURE MET ON DECEMBER 16 AND ADOPTED A WORK PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM IS BASED ON THE EC PROPOSAL (REF B) WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS INTRODUCED BY THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA. THE WORK PROGRAM WAS ELABORATED TRILATERALLY BETWEEN U.S., ARGENTINA AND THE EC IN STRENUOUS AND AT TIMES DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS AND IS GOVERNED BY PROCEDURAL STATEMENT READ BY CHAIRMAN OF TNC ON DECEMBER 11 (REF C). THE WORK PROGRAM PROVIDES ESSENTIALLY FOR BILATERAL NOTIFICATIONS OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF MEASURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THESE CONSULTATIONS, THE CHAIR WILL CONVENE A SUBSEQUENT GROUP AGRICULTURE WHICH MAY THEN DECIDE ON FURTHER PROCEDURES. THE WORK PROGRAM WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND RESERVING THEIR POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GROUP AGRICULTURE MET ON DECEMBER 16 AND ADOPTED A WORK PROGRAM FOR THE MONTHS TO COME (FOR TEXT SEE SEPTTEL). THE WORK PROGRAM IS LARGELY BASED ON THE EC PROPOSAL (REF B) BUT MODIFIED TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE SUGGESTIONS OF CHAIRMAN LONG (REF C) PURSUANT TO AGREEMENT WITH EC. THE EC PROPOSAL ALSO HAS BEEN MODIFIED IN ORDER TO MEET THE SPECIAL CONCERNS OF THE LDC'S, PARTICULARLY ARGENTINA WHICH INSISTED ON EMPHASIZING PRIORITY CONSIDERATION OF LDC NOTIFICATIONS.

3. IN TWO LONG-LASTING AND STRENUOUS TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN U.S., EC AND ARGENTINA PRIOR TO PLENARY MEETING, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE TEXT WHICH IS IN LINE WITH INSTRUCTIONS.

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4. THE WORK PROGRAM SUBMITTED TO THE PLENARY MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE ON DECEMBER 16 RECEIVED FULL SUPPORT FROM ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, AUSTRALIA (WARWICK-SMITH) RAISED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONSULTATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THIS WORK PROGRAM AND THOSE GOING ON UNDER THE AUSPICES OF OTHER

GROUPS. NEW ZEALAND RAISED SIMILAR QUESTIONS.

5. U.S. DEL (WALKER), EC (JACQUOT) AND ARGENTINA (MARTINEZ) REPLIED TO AUSTRALIAN QUERIES IN GENERAL TERMS WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS. FOLLOWING THESE REPLIES, AUSTRALIA STATED THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO IMPEDE OR OBSTRUCT THE PROCEDURES AGREED UPON BUT THAT AUSTRALIA AT THIS POINT IS NOT IN A POSITION TO INDICATE WHETHER THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS. NEW ZEALAND (EASTERBROOK-SMITH) TOOK SIMILAR POSITION.

6. CHAIRMAN STATED THAT ALL THE PROPOSALS MADE AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF GROUP AGRICULTURE REMAIN ON THE TABLE AND MAY BE TAKEN UP IN THE FUTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT, BRAZIL (BARTHEL ROSA) DECLARED THAT IT WITH-DRAWS ITS EARLIER PROPOSAL (MTN/AG/W/2) BUT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REINTRODUCE IT AT A LATER STAGE.

7. COMMENT. THE WORK PROGRAM ADOPTED BY GROUP AGRI-CULTURE POSTPONES TEMPORARILY THE NEED FOR RESOLVING THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS WHICH HAVE BLOCKED PROGRESS IN THIS GROUP DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE PRESENT WORK PROGRAM SHIFTS THE WORK OF GROUP AGRICULTURE INTO BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL CHANNELS. THE NATURE OF THE BILATERAL NOTIFICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WAS NOT FURTHER DEFINED NOR WAS ANY FURTHER DECISION TAKEN AS TO WHOM AND HOW THE RESULTS OF THESE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE REPORTED. THE PROGRAM IS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS MADE BY LONG AT THE TNC (MTN/W/24), BUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE SUGGESTIONS HAS NOT BEEN ADDRESSED IN DETAIL.

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IT WILL ALSO BE RECALLED THAT THE WORK PROGRAM ADOPTED BY GROUP AGRICULTURE COVERS ONLY PRODUCTS OTHER THAN THOSE SUBJECT TO THE THREE SUBGROUPS (MEAT, DAIRY, GRAINS). THUS THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES THAT ARISE IN THESE THREE SUBGROUPS ALSO REMAIN UNRESOLVED EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE EC HAS COMMITTED TO THE HOLDING OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THESE PRODUCTS. IN SPITE OF THESE UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS, ADOPTION OF A WORK PROGRAM BY GROUP AGRICULTURE MAY BE CONSIDERED AS A TEMPORARY SUCCESS BECAUSE IT REMOVES THE COMPLAINT OF AGRICULTURE BLOCKING PROGRESS IN THE WHOLE MTN.WALKER

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